

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

April 14, 2022

Meeting Held Via Zoom

&

DHS Hillsvieview Plaza/Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Stewart, Mark Koterwski, CJ Moit, Patty Kuglitsch, Ronda Williams, Mark Sternhagen, Eric Weiss, Alan Adel, Catherine Greseth, Tasha Jones, Matt Cain, and Ryan Groeneweg. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Roger Bowie, Ben Wolf Necklace, and Syndee Jundt. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Lewis, Thomas Elness, Monte Meier, and Colette Wagoner. Interpreters were Rick Norris and Hannah Hatle.

OPENING ACTIONS: Alan Adel, SILC Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Housekeeping items were reviewed in addition to reminding each person to identify themselves by name when speaking as interpreters are being utilized. Alan asked staff to review the voting process. Colette Wagoner, SILC staff, reminded members that this is a public meeting and action items will require voting by roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alan asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda, there were none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Alan asked for any changes/additions to the draft December 15, meeting minutes, there were none. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 15, 2021, MEETING MINUTES AS DISSEMINATED, MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. Alan asked for changes/additions to the SILC's executive committee meeting minutes. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2022, MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Alan invited public comments, hearing none, he moved on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Alan asked if there was a need to hold an executive session. This is a standing agenda item. The agenda includes a note that if there is a need for closed discussion to address any matter(s) that is sensitive/private or confidential the agenda provides time to do so. Hearing no need, he moved the agenda

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alan invited any announcements, there were none.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS: CIL Staff Training Assistance Request: Colette explained that Codi Erickson/Western Resources for Independent Living

(WRIL) approached Matt Cain/Independent Living Choices about providing training to their staff. Training consisted of a 3-day; face-to-face meeting held in March in Rapid City. Financial support was requested by ILC from the SILC in the support of mileage/lodging/per diem and one staff member's time. The SILC's Executive Committee reviewed and approved the request in the amount of \$1,495.00. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ACTION APPROVING THE CIL STAFF TRAINING REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,495, MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. Matt abstained.

The Executive Committee also took action to approve financial support of the 2022 Disability Awareness Day held at the Capitol in February. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ACTION ITEM OF CONTRIBUTING \$100 TO SPONSOR THE 2022 DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY, MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT, IL SPECIALIST: Consumer Satisfaction Survey Summary: Jennifer reported a 27% response rate for both CILs. Comments are consistent reflecting that individuals are happy with the IL services received. Few negative comments are received, but when provided, the comments are typically related to the length of time to receive a service. Status of CIL Contracts: This report shows the status of the CIL agreements with Part B funds at 6 months. The Division is projecting each CIL to expend their budgets. ILC has spent 100% of their Part B contract and the new contract will start June 1st. A billing error was detected with WRIL, and work was done to correct it. There were missing units, and this resulted in the Division processing a payment in the amount of \$11,607.18 to WRIL. The Division expects WRIL to expend the majority of their contract before the end of May. This is positive when comparing things to the same period last year. Differences were made in the areas of leadership, filling vacancies, and on-going staff training.

CILs Quarterly Reports: Western Resources for Independent Living/WRIL: A total of 990 individuals have received services (these are duplicative numbers as one individual may have received more than one service). When this number is compared to the same time period last year, this is a significant increase in individuals served. WRIL is accepting referrals and conducting outreach. Family member/friends was the highest selected item for how a participant learned of services. Independent Living Choices/ILC: Served a total of 2,536 individuals this quarter, when compared to the previous years' numbers, this is a significant increase. Referrals are primarily from family/friends and medical personnel. A question was asked about self-referrals and Matt responded that this is added to the family member/friend's category. Outreach is conducted throughout the coverage area. Reports reflect both CILs fully staffed. CIL FY21 Onsite Review/Follow up: The Division had no additional comments regarding the FY21 review. FY22 Onsite Reviews: Jennifer stated the onsite reviews for both CILs were recently conducted. A trend with ILC dealt with eligibility

documentation/case notes and ensuring forms are completed correctly. Positive findings included good contact with participants and services are timely. There were no concerns with billings. WRIL: Jennifer noted that services are increasing as well as continued staff training. The review identified areas to improve upon, e.g., keep case open a little longer vs staff conducting follow up calls with those whose cases were closed, billing for core services, and increase use of the Home Modification and Assistive Devices Program. Conversation with Codi included continued staff training, eligibility determinations, possible continued use of ILC to provide training and re-branding of WRIL. Outreach efforts should include overview of WRIL, the mission, available services, eligibility for services, core services, with providers in their coverage area. Division staff noted definite changes in WRIL as compared to a year ago.

Independent Living (IL) Manual: Jennifer explained that the IL Manual was finalized. The task of updating the manual was completed by her and staff from both CILs. The manual has been disseminated to both CILs and it will be updated on the Division's website.

Activities of Daily Living Services (ADLS) Waiver Renewal and Update: The Division has submitted the ADLS waiver for review and approval to the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS had questions regarding the renewal which the Division has responded to and is now waiting to see if there are additional questions or waiver approval. The current waiver will expire the end of May and the renewal will go into effect on June 1st.

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORTS: Independent Living Choices/ILC (South, North, Native American ILC): Matt explained that at the end of March, ILC expended all of its Part B contract funds. As of February 28th, all of ILC North's Part C funds have been depleted, ILC Native American Part C grant funds were depleted the end of March and ILC South funds will be depleted by the end of June. ILC is conducting the Harley Davison raffle again, tickets are selling quicker than previous years, with over 1,000 tickets sold to date. The money raised through the raffle will support HMAD needs in their coverage areas. Currently, ILC is undergoing its audit and once finalized it will add the 990 report to their website. ILC is fully staffed. The Mobridge, Yankton, and Mitchell offices each have two staff. The Huron and Aberdeen offices each have one staff member. ILC has a total of twenty-nine staff members and 105 personal attendants. As an agency, it was decided to provide a 7% increase to staff, which includes the personal attendants. ILC received the Public Health Workforce monies to add staff to conduct public health services and supports, in addition to receiving one-time HCBS monies for Medicaid billing related to the ADLS program. ILC was successful with obtaining VR grant funds from the Division to conduct summer transition classes for youth ages 14-21. The classes will be held in Sioux Falls, Huron, Mitchell, Watertown, and Yankton. ILC was successful in hiring a full-time personal

attendant who fills in hours in early morning and late evenings/hard to fill hours. She has been working an average of 45 hours a week.

Western Resources for Independent Living/WRIL: Codi was absent so there was no report. She will be asked for a report which can be shared with members.

CIL Staff Training Assistance Request Follow Up: Matt was asked about his thoughts regarding the training conducted by ILC with WRIL staff, with Codi being absent. Matt felt it was well received and that more time could have been directed to administrative or financial items. Matt shared that the direct service staff approached him and were very appreciative of the training. Jennifer stated she spoke with some of WRIL's staff and they acknowledged the need for additional ongoing training. She also noted that the two CILs are a major component of the IL Network and would hope that this type of relationship can continue, and this effort also reinforces consistency in the provision of services. Staff posed the question of whether the SILC wanted to entertain a motion to obligate funds to support needed training efforts between ILC and WRIL now versus the need to bring forward a request to the Executive Committee for consideration and then obtaining SILC approval. Matt stated he would want approval from his board prior to doing so, and he did not think there would be any objections. Members were in favor of providing support to this initiative, as long as ILC's board supported it. Discussion continued on the use of technology and an appropriate amount of funding needed to support this, **MOTION TO APPROVE UP TO \$1,000 TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF TRAINING EFFORTS BETWEEN ILC AND WRIL STAFF, MSC.** Yeas: Mark S, Mark K, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, Ryan. NAYS - None. Matt abstained.

SILC STAFF UPDATE: SILC staff reported that the Program Performance Reports (PPR) for FY2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020) and FY2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) have been approved by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The later PPR received approval on March 29th with a pdf copy sent to all members on March 31st. National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Update: The NDEAM Review Committee met on March 1st to review ten community funding requests (Aberdeen, Brookings, Madison, Mitchell, Mobridge, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Watertown, and Yankton). The 2022 total amount requested was \$29,720. The Review Committee recommended fully funding all requests. The Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired met on March 11th and obligated up to \$5,000 in financial support, and the BVR will provide financial backing as well. Staff explained that requests typically come in overinflated to ensure the needed funds are available to support the event. Last year over \$26,000 was obligated but the expenditures were less than \$16,000. The SILC was asked about their desire to provide financial backing for this year's events. **MOTION TO APPROVE UP TO \$5,000 TO SUPPORT THE 2022 NDEAM COMMUNITY EVENTS, MSC.** Yeas: Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, Ryan. NAYS - None. Staff explained that one

proposal was submitted late; after the NDEAM Review Committee had met. Bernie Grimme, Kim Ludwig, Jennifer Trenhaile and Colette reviewed the proposal. Bernie offered financial support from the Division to cover the request (speaker fees, meeting room, plaques) and not ask the NDEAM Review Committee to meet again. The request was less than \$1,500 but it had almost \$3,000 in funding/in-kind match. There was noted support for the Vermillion community to host an event. Mark S shared the Review Committee's discussion and the use of allocated funds towards advertising/promotional activities if there are cost savings in other areas. Catherine announced the speaker for the Rapid City event will be former Governor Daugaard.

Governor's Awards Nominations/Solicitation: A solicitation packet was mailed out on March 14th, in addition to disseminated emails with the attached forms. Staff worked with TIE Staff to develop a Facebook notification which was disseminated, which sent links to other disability related organizations inviting them to share the information. Links to the information can be found on the Division's website including the forms (Word documents, fillable pdf). A press release was issued on March 29th regarding the call for nominations. Members were asked to consider making nominations and share the solicitation. Nominations are due May 2nd.

BVR/SILC Nomination/Solicitation: A solicitation packet was disseminated the end of January for BVR and SILC nominations. The SILC has four members whose terms expire the end of June, of which two individuals are eligible to serve a 2nd term, if reappointed (Mark S and Patty K). Two members will term off which includes Alan and Catherine. The BVR has three members whose terms expire the end of June. One member is eligible to serve a second term, if re-appointed (Brooke L) and two members will term off (Pete B and Beth S). The SILC received six nominations, of which one is a person with a disability, and the BVR received 11 nominations of which 6 were persons with disabilities. The information has been compiled and forwarded, and will be presented to the Governor for final review and consideration of appointment.

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL): has announced its annual conference on Independent Living. The theme for the 2022 conference is "Forging Justice". This year's conference will be the first ever hybrid conference with options for an in-person event, July 25-28, in Washington, DC and virtual workshops to be held August 1-3rd. There is no agenda at this point, once it is available it will be shared with members. If there is an interest in attending, please let staff know, and this will be communicated to the SILC's Executive Committee. Registration rates will vary from \$250 – \$440 per person.

Budget Update: Copies of two budgets have been shared, both were emailed on March 30th. The first budget for calendar year January 1, 2021, through December 30, 2021, has itemized expenses attached for both the BVR and SILC. The staff support

agreement was renewed and the budget is for the time period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. This budget reflects expenditures through the end of February, and the SILC had no expenditures. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR THE TIME PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2022, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022, MSC.** Yeas: Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, Ryan. NAYS - None.

DIVISION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (D/SBVI):

Ronda reported on the staff turnover within the Division. There was a loss of a rehabilitation teacher in the Rapid City office which was recently filled. The rehabilitation teacher in Sioux Falls was invited by the Department of Labor and Regulation to do a promotional video to describe her position and what it entails. SBVI will host an all staff meeting in Sioux Falls on July 26-28. The training will include Kim Ladd, RN to talk about diabetes in terms of self-management and incorporating the use of low tech and other technology in managing the disease. Dr. Alan Davis will provide training on ethics, maintaining personal boundaries, and counseling techniques to help a person adjust to vision loss. CCTV lease loan program received a quote of \$33,000 for the purchase of 12 additional CCTVs, these will replace older units. Dawn Backer, Manager of the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, and Low Vision Therapist will be retiring on June 3rd.

BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (B/SBVI): Ronda stated the B/SBVI met on March 11th in Pierre, via a hybrid meeting (a combination of Zoom and laptop). She indicated this was an awkward format as no one wanted the camera on them and it was difficult to hear. The Division purchased a "Meeting Owl" which is voice activated and it focuses the video camera on each speaker as they talk. This will be utilized for the June meeting. Secretary Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Department of Human Services, joined the meeting and spoke about the legislative session and the Department's strategic plan. The B/SBVI suffered a huge loss with the passing of Zay Norman, who was a very strong advocate. There were two vacancies on the board which were filled by Richard Crawford and Kate Kosier. Zay's position is still vacant. The B/SBVI approved up to \$5,000 in support of the 2022 NDEAM events. Both Divisions contracted with Russ Thelin, Known Way Consulting, as a consultant to assist with the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. Russ will assist with identifying the needs to help outline the goals and strategies for each Division. The B/SBVI will meet again on June 3rd, and Ronda will let the SILC know how the meeting goes with the use of the OWL.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (BVR): Eric reported that the BVR met on March 22nd via Zoom. He noted that the BVR is the advisory council to the Division for the vocational rehabilitation program and performs the same functions as what the Board of SBVI does for the Division of SBVI. The BVR had a variety of topics during the March meeting which included the Unified State Plan, Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, discussion with Russ Thelin on the State Plan and utilizing the

findings of the needs assessment to inform the goals, objectives, and strategies. There was a presentation on the Post-Secondary Outcomes and the Indicator 14 Survey Results by Dr. Faye LaDuke Peltzer. This survey was conducted for the Office of Special Education. The next BVR meeting will be held on June 16th. Eric noted the South Dakota Boards and Commission's portal where information can be located on any state related board/council or commission, i.e., agendas, minutes, members. This can be found at: <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov>.

SILC COMMITTEE UPDATES: Consumer Services Committee: Ronda reported that the committee met on April 1st, via Zoom. The meeting also included Codi (WRIL), Denise Reed (ILC), Jennifer Lewis and Colette Wagoner. Committee discussion included activities which might support the next State Plan goals/objectives as the committee is called to identify IL services needs and/or best practices in the state. During the committee meeting, members identified existing information which will be gathered and reviewed to help identify IL service needs, barriers, or unmet needs. Recommendations might come in the form of objectives or activities e.g., improve consistency of IL services, access to services, reducing barriers, or increasing awareness of IL services. Committee members are gathering existing information to review, e.g., Ronda asked that if others know of other sources of information that the committee should review, to please pass this along her. CJ noted that Disability Rights hosts listening sessions and conducts an online survey; she will inquire about sharing this information with the committee. The committee will meet again early in May to continue their work.

Public Awareness/Outreach Committee: Catherine spoke to the development of a Facebook page for the SILC. The Committee worked with TIE staff to develop the Facebook page which will be utilized to increase awareness of IL services and disseminate disability related information. The Facebook page and banner were sent to members on March 21st. The committee also developed a draft "Guidance on Use of Social Media," which was forwarded to members on March 21st. The guidance pertains to SILC members or staff who are assigned administrative or editors of SILC related platforms i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat. The document was drafted for the SILC's consideration.

Catherine talked about the Champion of Independent Living Services Award. The solicitation or call for nominations will be disseminated early in May with a due date the end of June. Members were asked to assist with sharing the information once it is made available. Catherine identified an organization as a possible candidate for this award (Ski for Light). She encouraged members to think about candidates and share the solicitation with others.

Other Activities: The committee has looked into various means of increasing awareness regarding IL services, e.g., interviews with radio, advertising/printing IL

related information on plastic tote bags utilized at conferences, advertising on buses (prices obtained from River City Transit). However, the CIL directors asked for more conversation on this topic; the need to balance increasing awareness with the ability to meet an increased demand for services, e.g., staff availability, available funding. Steve asked about advertising on the transit buses and adding signs in the interior of the buses where it would be seen by participants who ride transit. Staff obtained quotes for advertising, with prices varying depending upon size and location on the vehicle. Matt noted that ILC can only serve so many individuals with the available level of funding at this point and noted the need to be cautious. If advertising brought a huge influx of calls/inquiries, would the two centers be able to provide services to all those who would be eligible. Efforts of various advertising/marketing should be put on hold for the time being, as someone noted that WRIL is bringing on all new staff which requires time and training. Mark S mentioned that he was recently appointed to serve on Brookings Area Transit Authority (BATA). He will encourage BATA to utilize advertising as a means to raise revenue and added comments about utilizing transit vehicles to help promote disability awareness or promote other general messages.

Patty asked if the Facebook page and logo were finalized. Colette shared her screen with the SILC's Facebook page and Mark S shared the link. Alan explained this information was disseminated by email and members were asked to vote for their preference of logo. The logo that members selected has been incorporated on the Facebook page. At this time, staff asked about the "Guidance on the Use of Social Media" document. This document pertains specifically to SILC members or staff who are assigned as an administrator and/or editor of any social medium. Members requested that the guidance document be added to the next meetings' agenda for consideration/adoption allowing more time for review and consideration.

Steve referred to the earlier discussion regarding advertising and concurred with Matt and the need to hold off on any advertising until we know we have the capacity to accept the increased demand for services. Jennifer inquired about capacity or a waiting list, if something existed, if the IL Network could not meet the need. Matt stated the only waiting list that ILC maintains is requests for HMAD, with the only exception being the transition of an individual out of a nursing home/institution.

Advocacy/Interagency Collaboration Committee: Tasha reported that the committee works to identify barriers related to either housing or transportation. SD Housing Development Authority recently held their development planning application meetings and there were no comments specific to persons with disabilities. Tasha reported that on behalf of the committee she communicated with the Department of Transportation and identified Monte Meier who will be presenting on public transportation later on the agenda. Depending upon the information that Monte shares, the committee might need to convene to take a closer at this information. She invited other comment or questions and there was none.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Committee: Members were reminded of the tracking report, which is a tool to gather information regarding work conducted towards accomplishing the goals and objectives in the SPIL. Members were asked to complete this form and send it to staff (information is entered into the Program Performance Report/year end data report). Eric invited members to share activities they have been involved with at this time. Mark S noted again he was appointed to BATA's board, and he will start attending meetings next month. He also shared that he spoke to a group of SDSU nursing students last week. Ryan spoke to participating with Disability Awareness Day held in Pierre last month during session. Nine disability related organizations were present in addition to information shared from another five organizations. At least 25 legislators stopped and visited, and disability related information was shared with them along with other members of the public. CJ spoke to being present during Disability Awareness Day and visiting with individuals. Catherine noted a number of trainings that she has been involved with and that she will send this information to staff. Mark S stated his new book will be coming out this week "Understanding Rhythm," it incorporates information on vaccines and disability awareness. He also spoke on the radio with an emphasis on disability awareness. Members were reminded that work will begin on the new SPIL (2023-2026) which will be due June 2023.

MOTION TO BREAK FOR LUNCH AND RECONVENE AT 12:30 PM, MSC. Yeas: Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, Ryan. NAYS - None.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:30 PM.

SILC COMMITTEE REPORTS - CONTINUED: Bylaws/Policies/Procedures
Committee: Eric referenced the draft bylaws disseminated to members on March 21st. He spoke to the proposed changes, noting that language was modified under sections 3.4 and 3.5, which address quorum and decision making. A question was asked about the language of a quorum as drafted, it read "shall be a simple majority (51%) of the full SILC membership". The SILC has a total of 15 members, thus to have a quorum, eight members must be present. For decision making, the draft language outlines that fifty-one percent (51%) of the current voting members present at a meeting". There were no further questions. **MOTION TO ADOPT THE REVISED BYLAWS AS DISSEMINATED, MSC.** Yeas: Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, Ryan. NAYS - None.

The next presenter was not yet available, it was agreed to move the Election of Officers agenda item up.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Alan handed this item over to Eric to speak on behalf of the Executive Committee. Eric explained that the Executive Committee was bringing forth a proposed slate of officers for four positions - Mark K/Chairperson; Mark S/Vice

Chairperson; and Patty and Tasha for Members-At-Large. Each member has expressed interest in serving in these roles, if elected. He would introduce one position at a time and take nominations from the floor. The process began with Eric calling for further nominations for SILC Chairperson, two times. Hearing none – **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT MARK K AS CHAIRPERSON – MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. Eric congratulated Mark K in his new role as Chairperson. Eric then moved to calling for further nominations for Vice Chair, two times. Hearing none – **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT MARK S. AS VICE CHAIRPERSON – MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. Eric congratulated Mark S in his role and thanked him for his continued service to the SILC. Next, Eric moved to calling for further nominations for Member-At-Large, two times. **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT TASHA AND PATTY AS MEMBERS AT LARGE – MSC.** YEAS – Mark S, Mark K, Matt, CJ, Catherine, Patty, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. Eric thanked Tasha and Patty for their willingness to serve. Eric noted that the SILC allows for two Members-At-Large to allow members to become familiar with duties serving on the Executive Committee. He spoke to next year's election and noted that some members will term off the SILC and encouraged others to consider serving as an officer. He thanked Alan for his service and commitment to the SILC and serving as chairperson the last few years. Eric turned the meeting over to Mark K, as new SILC Chair. Mark K thanked everyone for their vote of confidence.

Mark K moved the agenda. The speaker was not available yet, so he asked for Future Agenda Items. The 'Guidance on Use of Social Media' will be added to the next meeting agenda as a stand-alone item. Staff explained she reached out to Dr. Eric Kurtz, Center for Disabilities and inquired about their 5-year strategic planning. The Center for Disabilities conducted a formal survey in addition to hosting focus groups and talking circles. Dr. Kurtz agreed to share information obtained regarding persons with disabilities, living independently, or other barriers with the SILC. Members were interested and staff will contact him about presenting at an upcoming meeting. Schedule Next Meeting: Staff will disseminate a doodle poll to identify a date for the next quarterly meeting.

Mark K asked everyone to introduce themselves which would give Monte an idea of who was present and where they were from.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) – PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Tasha introduced Monte Meier, Department of Transportation, to members. Monte explained that he has been with DOT for three years and before this he worked for River City Transit Services for 9 years. A PowerPoint presentation was utilized. DOT is the administrator of the Federal Transit Administration funds for rural, specialized agencies, and the metropolitan areas (Rapid City and Sioux Falls). Responsibilities

include procures a majority of the transit vehicles, reviews the procurements of cities/rural providers; conducts program reviews and facility and vehicle inspections; provides technical assistance; and reviews submissions to determine if a provider is in compliance with the regulations. DOT staff also oversee construction projects by reviewing specifications, building plans and costs. DOT hosts rural transit provider program meeting annually, conducts training conference calls, provides ongoing guidance in addition to attending/presenting at the Dakota Transit Association.

Monte reviewed the program goals and objectives which included improving the mobility of people for purposes of nutrition, health care, shopping, education, recreation, public services, and employment. One goal is supporting and improving existing public and privately owned transportation services for an area rather than implementing new services. DOT can develop and start new senior and individuals with disabilities projects in situations where other providers are unavailable or unwilling to meet special needs. Monte reviewed staff and their roles, and the descriptions of DOT funding sources. There are 13 rural transit providers in the state in addition to one tribal transit provider. He reviewed FY2020 statistics for rural and specialized, urban, and intercity bus, (vehicles, miles traveled, and rides).

Total rides for FY2020 were 898,675, and ride types included: medical/130,017, employment/169,866, nutrition/67,143, social/106,545, education/275,787, shopping/76,484, and other/5,246. Specialized transportation statistics for FY2020 indicate that persons with disabilities were the major users of services and total rides/79,445 of which users were public/6%, elderly/3%, youth/19% and disabled/72%. This breaks down as Total rides 79,445; medial/4,671; employment/26,747; nutrition/1,700; social/14,538; education/28,794; shopping/2,022; and other/973.

In order to receive 5310 funds (elderly and individuals with disabilities), agencies are required to have a coordinated public transportation plan, which must have defined elements which were explained along with the coordination challenges. He shared the Interactive Public Transit Provider Map, which is available online, and it identifies provider, address, service hours, and contact information. The following counties not served by a rural transit provider include Harding, Jones, Lyman, Clark, Hand, and Shannon Counties. Mark S asked about any plans or assistance for providers to extend hours for weekdays or weekend hours. Monte indicated they are working with FTA to identify additional funds to assist with costs for extending hours or hiring drivers. Taxis are an option in the Brookings are but difficult due to the lack of accessible vehicles. There were no other questions, and Mark K thanked Monte for his time today. Monte invited members to be in touch with other public transit related questions.

OTHER BUSINESS: there was no other business. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:39 pm.